

Hotel Torino (Henry's Hi-Life)
River Street Historic District
301 W. St. John Street
San Jose
Santa Clara County
California

HABS No.

CA-2379

UNES

CHL

42-CANTOS

20-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

HABS
CAL
43-SANTOS,
20-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

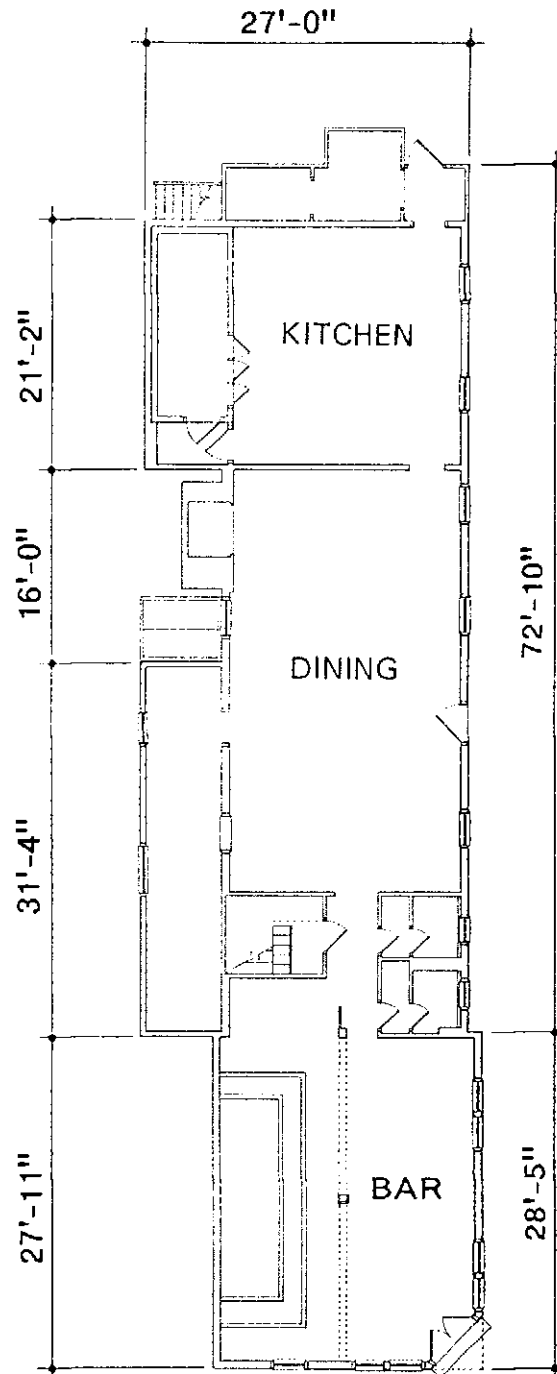
Hotel Torino
Henry's Hi-Life

HABS No. CA-2379

- Location:** 301 West St. John Street, River Street Historic District
San Jose, Santa Clara County, California
UTM Coordinates: 10-597710-4132450
- Significance:** The Hotel Torino, due to its architectural integrity and contribution to the urban fabric, forms an integral part of the River Street Historic District, a rare intact late nineteenth century and early twentieth century working class neighborhood in San Jose.
- Description:** This two-story wood framed structure was originally used as a hotel. The long, narrow building measures about 35'x140' and is visually the largest and most imposing structure in the district. The top story, now unused, is divided into 17 small hotel rooms with communal baths at either end. The first story, still used, includes a restaurant, kitchen, and bar. The hotel is topped with a flat roof and is covered with channel rustic siding. Fenestration includes numerous one over one double hung sash windows. A handsome bracketed cornice exists at the building segment closest to the corner of St. John and Pleasant, where the angled corner entrance is found. Although not constructed until 1900, the structures is Italianate in style.
- History:** The hotel was constructed around 1900 and historically functioned as the home for the newest immigrant arrivals to the area--young, single men or young married men saving money to send for families still in Italy. The building also served as a kind of social hall for Italian immigrants, serving inexpensive Italian food, providing a bocce ball court, and generally serving as a gathering spot for the neighborhood until well into the 1920s. It was also known as the Piedmont Hotel in 1911, managed by G. Marazzo, and the New Progress Hotel in 1913, with L.A. Villata as the proprietor. In 1915 Bartolomeo Vinassa purchased the building and renamed it the Hotel Torino. It continued to function as a hotel up through the 1950s.
- Sources:** California Historic Resources Inventory Form, prepared by
Stephen D. Mikesell, 1988.
San Jose City Directories.
San Jose 1924 Block Map.
- Historian:** Hardlines: Design & Delineation
Columbus, Ohio & Bethesda, Maryland
July - October, 1993

Hotel Torino (Henry's Hi-Life)

HABS No. CA-2379 (Page 2)



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

1/16" = 1' - 0"